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For action

Country programme recommendation**

Thailand

Addendum

Summary

The present addendum to the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 1998 contains the final country programme recommendation for Board approval.

It contains a recommendation for funding the country programme of Thailand which has an annual planning level of $1,000,000 or less. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve the amount of $3,965,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $12,500,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 1999 to 2003.

* E/ICEF/1998/12.

** The original country note provided only indicative figures for estimated programme cooperation. The figures provided in the present addendum are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1997. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1998 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programme" (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.21).

Basic data
(1996 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, under 18 years)	19.5
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	38
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	31
Underweight (% moderate and severe)	..
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (1990)	200
Literacy (% male/female) (1995)	96/92
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female)	../..
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	88
Access to safe water (%)	88
Routine EPI vaccines financed by Government (%)	100
GNP per capita (US$)	2,960 a/
One-year-olds fully immunized against:	
tuberculosis:	98 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	94 per cent
measles:	85 per cent
poliomyelitis:	94 per cent
Pregnant women immunized against tetanus:	88 per cent

a/ GNP per capita, government estimate for 1998: $2,505.

The situation of women and children

1. Thailand has achieved most of the mid-decade goals, with the year 2000 health, education and water supply and sanitation goals on track or already attained. Over the past few decades, Thailand has achieved much in the areas of primary health care (PHC), education and quality of life, and, in the process, has provided its own models which frequently are studied by other countries. A new Constitution lays a basis for electoral reform and puts a new emphasis on human rights and the heightened accountability of Government to citizens in general, and to women and children in particular. The new Constitution also strengthens the decentralization policy established over the past three years and reinforced one year ago by the Eighth National Development Plan (1997-2001).

2 Thailand adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, and the past two years have seen new or amended laws enacted to strengthen and further protect the rights of children, in many cases with strong support from UNICEF. Yet, the quality of many children's lives remains poor — especially for those marginalized or in need of special protection. Between 2 million and 3 million children live below the poverty line, many of whom have limited access to education. About 1.6 million children are out of primary and lower secondary school, and child labour remains widespread; more girls than boys enter the labour force at a young

age. The Government estimates that between 25,000 and 65,000 children are engaged in prostitution. HIV/AIDS prevalence among women attending antenatal clinics is 2 per cent nationally, but rises to 10 per cent in some northern provinces. On present trends, the year 2005 will see paediatric HIV/AIDS infections reaching a range of 86,000 to 100,000, while 230,000 children under 15 years of age are expected to have lost their mothers. The Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights reports that 60 per cent of violence against children is by parents.

3. For the past decade Thailand has experienced uninterrupted economic growth averaging some 8.5 per cent annually. While this had a generally positive influence on survival and development indicators, it also contributed to the emergence of a variety of newer challenges to child welfare and child rights: increased sexual and physical exploitation among young children; and a rising incidence of HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and violence among youth. The abrupt and dramatic downturn in the economy since mid-1997 has interrupted the positive trends in physical well-being and poverty reduction, forcing even more children into abusive or hazardous work situations, reducing employment opportunities for adults and threatening the ability of Government to continue to provide support for basic social services at previous levels. The period of rapid economic development encouraged many people to leave their home villages in search of jobs in cities and factories. Now the economic crisis has resulted in a large-scale return to rural areas, straining the absorptive capacity of traditional, agricultural communities. Nevertheless, the response to the crisis by the Government and the public, as well as by external support agencies, includes many positive elements such as recognition of the need to protect basic social services and support social safety nets, including through microprojects to provide livelihood alternatives for the jobless and the poor.

Programme cooperation, 1994-1998

4. The Government of Thailand-UNICEF programme of cooperation for 1994-1998 was linked to achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children. The mid-term review (MTR) of the programme in 1996 noted Thailand's success in attaining the goals, but noted that a proportion of children were still disadvantaged, including many in need of special protection measures. Consequently, it was recommended that attention should focus on sustainability and disparity reduction. To achieve a greater impact with limited resources, and recognizing the comparative advantage of UNICEF, it also was recommended that UNICEF place increased emphasis on advocacy and communication and focus more on strengthening family and community capabilities for child care and protection.

5. Pursuing the MTR recommendations, UNICEF began to develop a new area-based approach to help disadvantaged groups make better use of the resources available to them. The programme capitalized on the process of decentralization presently under way in Thailand. The newly created Tambon Administrative Organisation (TAO) at the subdistrict level faced critical challenges in planning and implementing its social development mandate, including responsibility for women, children and youth. Thus, UNICEF assistance focused on participatory approaches to problem-solving among subdistrict and community organizations. In these interventions, firmer linkages were developed with Thailand's Department of Local Administration (DOLA), the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) and social research institutes. The interventions aimed at developing systems and mechanisms for multisectoral collaboration, instituting skills for participatory planning and management, linking communities with local administration and institutions, and promoting human resource development in line with Thailand's Eighth Plan and Constitution.

6. Another important development has been the initial experience gained in local fund-raising that found citizen readiness to contribute towards helping children in need. This made it possible to plan for future country programmes based predominantly on local fund-raising. This was greatly enhanced by the support of a much-respected former Prime Minister who became UNICEF Ambassador for Thailand in 1996. The response to public appeals has been affected to some extent by the recent economic crisis. In this context, UNICEF will need to be even more convincing to this new fund-raising constituency on the effective use of these funds to sustain and further increase this basis of support for children in Thailand. Tax deductibility for these contributions was granted in 1997 by the Government, and a Thailand Fund-raising Consultative Group for UNICEF, with government and non-governmental membership, has been constituted. The group has noted the potential of corporate fund-raising for the future, particularly in view of the granting of tax deductibility.

Lessons learned

7. The lessons learned during the past country programme included how to support "model-building" and, subsequently, facilitate the expansion and replication of good practices. In this respect, review of the early childhood project was summarized in the country note

(E/ICEF/1998/P/L.17). The review identified the following critical factors: desired changes should be incremental, not threatening to existing government services, and embody collaboration between, and a sense of shared ownership among, diverse governmental, non-governmental and civil society actors and matching government policy and goals. The role of UNICEF should be catalytic, facilitative and capacity-building. This review also noted the need for continued attention to putting the child and family at the centre of local development planning.

8. Other key lessons were in the realm of community dynamics. A study of communication practices in a number of villages, both traditional and "modernized", found participation to be the key distinguishing factor of a healthy and cohesive community capable of self-reliant action. Establishing such dynamics, however, required the stimulus of a facilitator or capable change agent. Patient establishment of dialogue among different peer groups contributed to assessment, analysis and action, as well as to the dissemination of important information which otherwise might not have reached the more socially excluded. Similar experiences were noted in work with community-based organizations such as People With HIV-AIDS groups, which demonstrated that interpersonal efforts around common interests could foster inclusion of the marginalized, even of those facing active discrimination, in mainstream community development.

9. Important initial experiences and lessons also have been learned regarding how to promote children's and women's issues in the decentralization process. Although the subdistrict TAO system began in 1995, it has shown limited progress due mainly to continued central-level dominance of planning and programming, as well as to initial misapprehensions concerning TAO roles and responsibilities. One potential strength, in particular, seems to be underutilized: an existing and extensive information-gathering infrastructure that could be better employed as a tool for community development, strengthening the assessment, analysis and action processes in locally-based community and subdistrict planning and decision-making.

Recommended programme cooperation, 1999-2003

Estimated annual expenditure
(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*Total*
General resources						
Child protection and development	552	464	426	424	424	2 290
Promotion of child rights and disparity reduction	170	170	160	160	140	800
Social policy analysis	125	120	85	85	110	525
Technical cooperation among developing countries	75	75	75	65	60	350
Subtotal	**922**	**829**	**746**	**734**	**734**	**3 965**
Supplementary funding						
Child protection and development	1 500	2 000	2 250	1800	1 450	9 000
Promotion of child rights and disparity reduction	400	450	450	500	500	2 300
Social policy analysis	100	100	150	200	250	800
Technical cooperation among developing countries	60	80	100	100	60	400
Subtotal	**2 060**	**2 630**	**2 950**	**2 600**	**2 260**	**12 500**
Total	**2 982**	**3 459**	**3 696**	**3 334**	**2 994**	**16 465**

Country programme preparation process

10. Preparation of the proposed country programme of cooperation was coordinated by the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC) under the Prime Minister's Office. Four working groups developed detailed objectives, strategies and activities in the areas of child protection and development, the promotion of child rights and disparity reduction, social policy analysis, and technical cooperation between Thailand and the region. Thereafter, technical papers were prepared on the following key issues: life skills education; family development; local capacity-building; and communication. The final step entailed two 2-day planning workshops to reach agreement on objectives, strategies and activities. Both planning workshops were attended by participants from various government departments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, media and academe.

Country programme objectives and strategy

11. The 1999-2003 programme focuses on supporting development of an environment that recognizes and respects the rights of all children to an equitable and productive existence, ensuring their well-being and improving their prospects for social and economic advancement. Accordingly, the objectives of the Government-UNICEF programme of cooperation are to: (a) support the Government to achieve and sustain the National Programme of Action (NPA) goals, particularly those relating to child protection and development; (b) help governmental and non-governmental organizations promote public awareness of, and responsiveness to, child rights and the need for disparity reduction; (c) support social policy analysis and development through social policy studies and monitoring of NPA goals; and (d) assist the Government and other partner organizations to exchange technical expertise and programme experiences related to child survival, development, protection and participation in the region, especially in the Mekong subregion.

12. These overall objectives are translated directly into two main programme strategies and two supporting ones. The first main strategy builds on UNICEF experience in working with governmental and non-governmental partners to develop and replicate models for strengthening family and community capacity for child protection and development. The strategy will address national policy imperatives and support specific governmental initiatives, as well as keep well-established relationships with non-governmental groups and networks. The second main strategy will be to support advocacy and social mobilization in the public domain to strengthen awareness of children's rights and build civic resolve to end rights violations. Advocacy on the need and the means to address the problem of disparities between children in different areas and population groups will be a prominent part of the strategy.

13. The above-mentioned strategy programme will be further underpinned by two supporting programmes. The first is systematic monitoring, evaluation and research activities addressing both the current situation of children as well as the continuing social and economic processes, which will be analysed in more depth for the purpose of policy development. UNICEF also will endeavour to facilitate a more systematic sharing of experiences and "good practices" in child rights actions and programmes across the region and elsewhere.

Child protection and development

14. Implemented by DOLA of the Ministry of Interior at the subdistrict level, and focusing on marginalized families and youth in unreached and underserved areas, this programme aims to build local capacity for participatory planning. The approach serves to secure more equitable access to, and use of, quality basic services in particular, while addressing problems of poverty, exclusion and exploitation in general. In view of limited UNICEF resources as well as the need for well-documented effectiveness, this component will be implemented in relatively few, carefully-selected districts of northern and north-eastern Thailand and in two urban areas. The specific objectives are: (a) to prevent the abuse and exploitation of women and children from marginalized groups and high-risk areas; (b) to increase protection for already vulnerable groups (e.g. children affected by HIV/AIDS, and those at risk of abuse, sexual exploitation or hazardous labour); (c) to strengthen the planning capacity of community-, subdistrict- and district-level institutions for the protection and development of children; and (d) to develop appropriate life skills education for children and youth to prevent the adoption of high-risk behaviours and to develop their capacity and opportunities for participation in relevant family, school or community decision-making.

15. Operational strategies aim to enhance the parental role in child care and protection and to strengthen service provider roles in the early detection of child abuse and appropriate interventions. The main channel will be the Family Development Programme of the Community Development Department of the Ministry of Interior, which embraces children up to 18 years old and their

families. Technical support will be provided by the National Institute for Child and Family Development, while institutional support will help with the adaptation of the network of community development centres into community learning centres. By training front-line development workers and volunteers, these centres will provide continuing education to parents on child care and development; counselling to families on child and drug abuse; livelihood support to marginalized families to help them continue their children's education; and advice on youth issues, including HIV/AIDS and other aspects of adolescent health.

16. Enhancing community linkages with selected service institutions, such as schools and health centres, will aim to increase accessibility and improve quality. In these interventions, parents and caregivers will be involved in monitoring child learning and faltering. Teachers and health staff will be trained in early child abuse detection, and a cadre of trainers will be developed for child protection and rights sensitization work. Local curricula will be developed for life skills education, and teachers will be trained in participatory and experiential learning methods. This experience will inform efforts to integrate child rights issues into the national curriculum. Indicators for monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of "child-friendly" schools will be identified, and student drop-out will be tracked and attendance monitored to the ninth grade level.

17. For abused and exploited children, the strategy will strengthen the capacity of NGOs and relevant government officials to handle cases appropriately. Training in psychosocial counselling, rehabilitation, and in some vocational areas will be supported. Linkages will be developed with the private sector to foster job placements. Linkages also will be developed with appropriate government agencies for longer-term support.

18. Participatory planning, implementation and management support, including "development volunteers", will link the above-mentioned activities with local government structures at subdistrict and district levels. This work will support government efforts to establish district-level forums involving community and civil society participation. Programme activities will stimulate the formulation of community-level microprojects supported in various ways such as through district or *Tambon* development funds, UNICEF-supported local fund-raising and significant social investment project funds underwritten by the international financial institutions among others.

Promotion of child rights and disparity reduction

19. Implemented primarily at the national level, this component aims to: establish a constituency for children to promote action for child rights, including local fund-raising; ensure that children's interests are at the centre of social policy debates; promote civil society participation and identification with these issues; effectively disseminate policies and data reflecting disparities for advocacy purposes; increase family and public knowledge of child rights; develop child protection systems and mechanisms; and foster the participation of children and youth in these efforts wherever feasible.

20. The main strategies will be advocacy and alliance-building, as well as national capacity-building. The advocacy dimension will employ social policy analysis to focus attention on emerging problems affecting children and on needed policy change. This component also will draw on goal monitoring and evaluation outcomes. Activities will include seminars, meetings, and occasional policy papers and sponsored articles on specific issues. Cause-related alliances will help to build the general constituency for children and raise funds. Such alliances will promote a normative framework for dealing with the issues of children and women, promote constructive media for children, and improve the understanding and orientation of media professionals. Quality radio, television and print media coverage will be encouraged through positive reinforcement and the sharing of Thai experiences internationally. The participation of children and youth will be strengthened through research that seeks to engage parents as well as young people themselves in exploring attitudes to, and priorities for, this aspect of child rights. This research will be developed with the help of networks of interested academics and institutions.

21. National capacity-building will support the use of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in shaping legal and administrative reforms under the new Constitution. This programme component will support the review of laws, regulations and the juvenile justice system; provide technical assistance in developing effective child protection systems, including "Ombudswork"; promote better reporting of child abuse cases and subsequent protection; develop materials and training for law enforcement officials on the proper handling of child exploitation cases; support research on improving child protection mechanisms; and establish and promote networks for the exchange of experiences.

Social policy analysis

22. This component has two sub-components: (a) social policy analysis; and (b) goal monitoring and evaluation. Social policy analysis will help to underpin advocacy and policy development. Its main objectives are to: (a) analyse the effect of social development, emerging issues and social policies and measures on children; (b) promote appropriate responses to these issues and problems; and (c) establish and promote a mechanism for policy changes and action at national, regional and subregional levels. Working with the NESDB, the Ministries of Education and Health and United Nations agencies, this component will support periodic studies on the social impact of economic developments and trends on children and disadvantaged groups; examination of Government policies, measures and budgeting in light of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and policy-relevant research to help identify remedial actions in health, education and other social sectors.

23. Goal monitoring and evaluation will strengthen capacities to monitor NPA implementation. The ultimate objectives are to: (a) strengthen the monitoring of, and reporting on, NPA implementation and the goals of the World Summit for Children; (b) identify achievements, successes and constraints in NPA implementation; and (c) strengthen national and subnational (province, district and subdistrict) capacities to monitor child protection with timely and relevant indicators. The focus will be on assisting the National Youth Bureau (NYB) to improve monitoring systems by assessing weaknesses and strengths of the current child monitoring systems, and then advocating needed improvements. Another area of support will aim to further refine indicators and strengthen NYB progress reports on implementation of the Convention. This component will include improved lower-level monitoring of protection issues by refining child protection indicators and developing "user-friendly" tools and systems for subdistrict and community programme planners and implementors.

Technical cooperation among developing countries

24. This component aims at: (a) making Thailand's experience in social development available to other developing countries, with priority given to countries in the Mekong subregion; (b) facilitating collaboration between Thai professionals and their counterparts in the region and beyond; (c) establishing networks and linking electronic databases to share information on Thailand's technical know-how with institutions abroad and to access relevant experiences and "best practices" from elsewhere; and (d) encouraging operational research on subregional issues pertinent to women and children. Support will be provided for documenting experience and translating resulting materials in relevant languages to facilitate study visits and the sharing of information in specific areas (e.g. nutrition, PHC and the vertical transmission of HIV/AIDS), to the wider dissemination of such materials and the organization of study visits. In addition, relevant short training courses and professional attachments will be organized for neighbouring countries. Finally, information-sharing, electronically and through existing networks, will be promoted on the complementary technical resources available in the country, region and subregion. In collaboration with the UNICEF Regional Office, efforts will be made to address cross-border issues and multi-country concerns and actions related to the situation of children and women.

Monitoring and evaluation

25. Monitoring the situation of children, including the goals, is an integral part of the country programme. The programme will support surveys and studies and the disaggregated analysis of routine data to highlight disparities for advocacy purposes. Programme monitoring is included in each component, and the information will be reviewed at annual programme reviews and planning exercises with partners. An annual management review will analyse performance and identify specific actions to improve cost-effectiveness and programme efficiency. An MTR with partners will examine experience to date and identify lessons learned as a basis for considering broader policy options and reallocating resources if needed. Programme evaluation and social policy analysis will enrich understanding of the factors influencing the situation of women and children. Evaluations and studies as well as documentation of experience, especially under the integrated family development subcomponent, will be widely disseminated and used for higher-level advocacy.

Collaboration with partners

26. Partnerships with other donor agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, and a wide range of NGOs and other actors at community level are critical to the overall programme strategy. Partnerships will be sought and forged through exchange of information and expertise centred on specific programme and advocacy issues. Working through the United Nations system will be of particular importance in light of ongoing United Nations reform. Currently, UNICEF is working with the International Labour Organization in the area of child labour prevention; with the World Health Organization/United Nations Population Fund in HIV/AIDS; and with the United Nations Development Programme in

decentralized systems development and community capacity-building under the United Nations Collaborative Action Plan. The process will be enhanced through a Common Country Assessment exercise, leading to the development of a full-scale United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Programme management

27. Country programme implementation will be coordinated by DTEC. A standing committee under DTEC comprises representatives from the Ministries of Public Health, Education, Interior (DOLA/Community Development Department), NYB, NESDB, the National Statistical Office, prominent NGOs and academic institutions. Donors and relevant United Nations agencies also may participate. The UNICEF Thailand office will administer UNICEF support and provide technical assistance, coordinated with the help of the country management team. The UNICEF Regional Office will provide oversight, technical inputs and specific support for regional and subregional initiatives on technical assistance for developing countries.

TABLE

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

COUNTRY : THAILAND
PROGRAMME : 1999-2003

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET				POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GENERAL RESOURCES :																	
CHILD PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT	2,290,000			2,290,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	7	0	1,307,818	1,307,818
PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS	800,000			800,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	324,062	324,062
SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS	525,000			525,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	381,515	381,515
TECHNICAL COOPERATION	350,000			350,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116,899	0	116,899
TOTAL GR	3,965,000			3,965,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	11	116,899	2,013,395	2,130,294
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
CHILD PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT		0	9,000,000	9,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS		0	2,300,000	2,300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	291,261	291,261
SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS		0	800,000	800,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TECHNICAL COOPERATION		0	400,000	400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SF		0	12,500,000	12,500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	291,261	291,261
TOTAL GR & SF	3,965,000	0	12,500,000	16,465,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	12	116,899	2,304,656	2,421,555
SUPPORT BUDGET		Operating costs		951,400													
		Staffing			0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	5	9	1,461,102	1,354,978	2,816,080
GRAND TOTAL (GR + SF + SB)					0	0	1	1	0	0	2	8	11	21	1,578,001	3,659,634	5,237,635
Number of posts and staff costs:																	
Current programme cycle											3	7	10	20			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)											2	8	11	21	1,578,001	3,659,634	5,237,635

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.
IP = International Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
SB = support budget.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Excludes temporary assistance and overtime.

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